

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 4 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not disclose or suggest, in combination with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, primarily, wherein linking on/off-switching of the second pair of switches on the primary side to on/off- switching of the second pair of switches on the secondary side by switching off the second pair on the secondary side when the second pair on the primary side is switched on, and when the second pair on the primary side is switched off, switching on the second pair on the secondary side, wherein the first and second pairs of switches on the primary side are turned off for longer periods of time than they are switched on, and wherein the on/off switching of the pairs of switches is carried out by applying individual control voltage pulse trains to each pair of switches, and wherein the control voltage pulse train which is applied to the pair of switches on the secondary side is the inverse of the control voltage pulse train applied to the pair of switches on the primary side to which it is linked.

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of the respective claims are believed to render the aforementioned indicated claim and any dependent claims thereof patentable over the art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HARRY BEHM whose telephone number is (571)272-8929. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 3:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Akm E. Ullah can be reached on (571) 272-2361. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Harry Behm/
Examiner, Art Unit 2838

/Jeffrey L. Sterrett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2838